

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: the area and trails are open 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for Daylight Savings Time.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. The Nature Shop closes at 4:30 p.m. Phone: 816-228-3766

LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG



The Nutshell
 BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

Thank You!

We want to thank the following groups and people for their generous donations of materials and labor over the past two months. Their kindness and hard work help continue to make Burr Oak Woods a great nature center. Thanks!

- More than 25 AT&T Volunteers for their work in weed removal, wood chipping and bird banding net lane preparation.
- The Independence Christian Center Frontier Cadets for the donation of 1 youth life jacket, 2 fishing rods, reels, and split shot.
- Duane Hoover for the donation of two kestrel nesting boxes.
- Girl Scout Troops 151, 295, 1771 and 1698 for the making and donation of four hopper bird feeders.
- Antoine's Seed Company for their donation of a hummingbird feeder, seed, and suet.
- Girl Scout Troop, run by Lonora Woolsey, for making and donating four large squirrel and bird feeders.
- Blue Springs Wal-Mart for donating bird seed.
- Nancy Keene for donating 3 lifejackets, fishing reel, split shot, and two tubs!

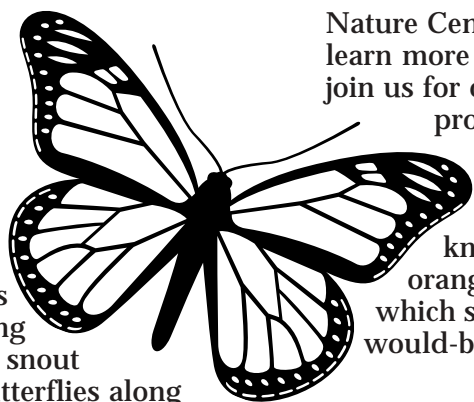


The Nutshell

Newsletter of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

JULY 2003
 Volume 17
 Number 7

Missouri is home to nearly 200 species of butterflies, from the monarch to the more inconspicuous harvester and snout butterflies. Butterflies along with moths belong to the order of insects known as Lepidoptera, which means scale (lepid) wing (ptera). July and August bring the peak of butterfly activity in our area and the great thing about butterflies is that they occur just about everywhere. Take time this summer to notice these beautiful insects, whether in your yard, at the park or at Burr Oak Woods Conservation

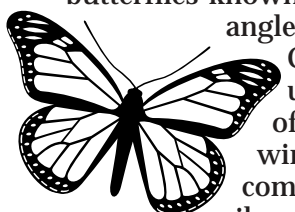


Nature Center. And, if you want to learn more about butterflies, please join us for one or more of our special programs during July.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES are known for their dramatic orange and black plumage which serves as a warning to would-be predators that they are

source is beneficial for the ants and the ants reciprocate by protecting the caterpillars from potential predators.

Two of our most common butterflies are named after punctuation marks. The **COMMA** and **QUESTION MARK** are butterflies known as



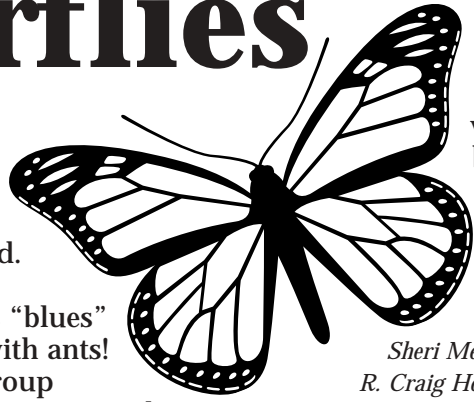
angle-wings. On the underside of the hind wing of a comma is a silvery

Bountiful Butterflies



foul-tasting, due to toxins, the larvae or caterpillars ingest from the milkweeds, upon which they feed.

Butterflies known as “blues” make great friends with ants! Caterpillars of this group secrete a liquid rich in sugar and protein which the ants eat. The food



“comma” while the question mark has the silvery comma with a “period” beneath it. Pretty cool, eh?

Sheri Medlock, Naturalist & R. Craig Hensley, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Attention Citizen Scientists! Butterfly Count Participants Needed

Many months ago we wrote about forthcoming efforts to involve members of the community in various “citizen science projects.” Well, here is our first natural history project! On Saturday, August 2, Burr Oak Woods will conduct its first annual butterfly count and survey. Butterflies, besides being diverse and beautiful, are considered by many

to be indicators of environmental health. Throughout the country, naturalists, whether professional, volunteer or members of the community at large, spend one day a year surveying butterflies through the North American Butterfly Association's Annual Butterfly Count. We're looking for “citizen scientists” that have an interest in learning more about butterflies and assisting with our survey. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with a

one-hour workshop on the basics of butterfly identification. We'll then divide into teams (with one member of each team an experienced butterfly identifier) and head to various parts of the nature center to survey the species present. The day will end at approximately 4 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about butterflies and being involved in this effort, please contact Craig Hensley at 816-228-3766 ext. 227.

Our mission is to bring people and nature together.

JULY EVENTS *at Burr Oak Woods*

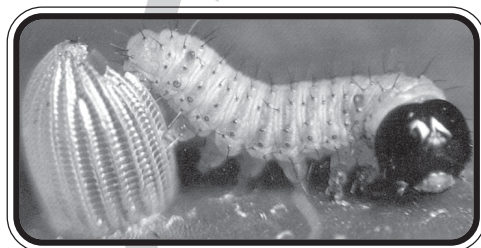
Call Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center on or after July 1 to register for these free programs (Phone 228-3766 V/TDD). If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

Saturdays in July! Grandma's Story Time

5, 12, 19, 26

Join "Grandma" for her weekly story time. Volunteer-naturalist Grace Riechmann will share her love of children's literature with fun-filled, nature-oriented stories, puppets and more! No registration is required.

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Ages: All Ages



5 *Saturdays*

26 Family Fishing

It's time again to take someone fishing! Bring your young ones out for a morning of fishing fun at Burr Oak Woods. You'll learn the ins and outs of fishing and then bait a hook and try your luck at our fishing pond. We provide the bait and equipment. Participants 16-65 years of age must have a valid Missouri fishing license which can be purchased at the Nature Center. Please call to register.

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Families (5 and up)

12 *Saturday*

Bird Banding at BOW

Join us for a unique opportunity of assisting an on-going research MAPS project. In this project we'll be banding songbirds to gain better understanding of the breeding birds at the nature center. If you would like to join us, please call to register.

Time: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ages: Adults (20 and over)

13 *Sunday* Burr Oak Woods Hiking Club

Join the Burr Oak Woods Hiking Club for our monthly outing. We'll strap on our boots and hike through Stocksdale Park in Liberty. Bring a water bottle and dress for the weather. Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Adults (20 and up)

19 *Saturday* Outdoor Skills Camp for the Deaf

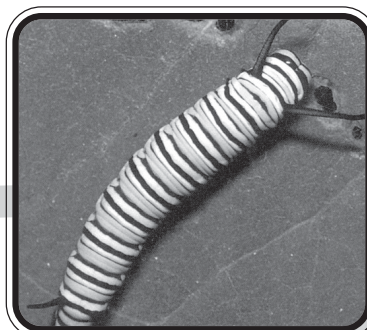
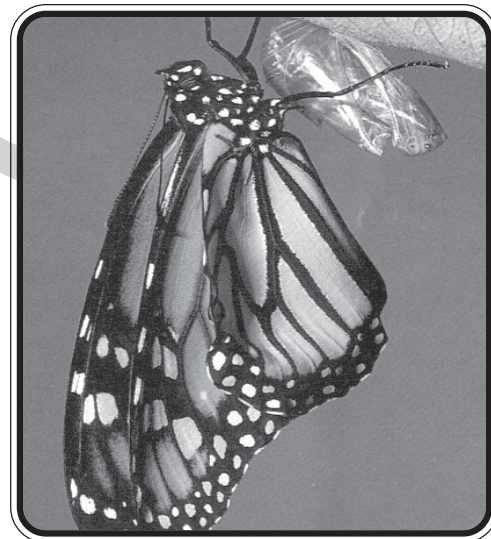
Burr Oak Woods is having a first annual Outdoor Skills Camp for the deaf! Activities include canoeing, archery, fishing and air rifles. Contact Naturalist Sheri Medlock for more details. Please call to register.

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: Families (ages 8 and up)

19 *Saturday* Wildflower Wonders

As summer heats up, the prairies are bursting with a variety of wildflowers. Join IPS Craig Hensley for a morning of wildflowers, from gray-headed coneflower to wild bergamot. Please call to register.

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Ages: Adults (20 and over)



19 *Saturday* Butterflies 101: Part 2

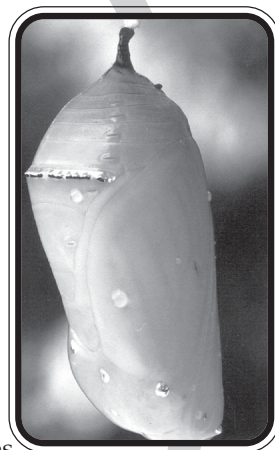
Join IPS Craig Hensley for the second in a series of butterfly programs. You'll learn tips and tricks for identifying butterflies and head to the field for an afternoon of butterfly watching. Please call to register.

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Adults Only (20 and up)

20 *Sunday* Nature Scope Series: Butterflies

As part of the New Summer Nature Scope Series, this month we will cover butterflies! Bring your family and find out many interesting facts about butterflies. We will have butterfly specimens, movies, and crafts. No registration required.

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Families (ages 6 and up)



20 *Sunday* Diseases & Insects

This special presentation is brought to you by Missouri's Master Gardeners! This introductory program will focus on plant diseases and insects. Be sure to bring a notebook and your questions. Please call to register.

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults

Movies in July

6, 13, 20, 27

This great film *Butterfly and Moth* brings these beautiful wildlife to life. Discover their amazing transformations!

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: All Ages

OUTDOOR SKILLS

SUMMER CHALLENGE!

If you love to have fun outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then, this program is for you! Teamwork and safety will be stressed. You might even make a few new friends!

You will love the action filled day! Don't forget your water bottle, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Lunch is provided. Join us as we learn the basics of these outdoor skills:

Air Rifles: Have you always wanted to learn how to shoot a rifle? We will teach you how to aim and shoot at a target. Gun safety will be stressed.

You are guaranteed to have fun and stay safe in this program... can you hit the bulls-eye?

Archery: The number of archery enthusiasts continues to grow every year. It is just plain fun! Join us on the Prairie Archery Range to develop your skills with a compound bow! Wait until you try the challenge!

Canoeing: Did you know that Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams? Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn important canoeing skills that you will need if going on a float trip with your family. We'll even teach you the most sought after paddling technique.

Outdoor Skills Camp

Ages 8 - 12

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mondays, July 7, 14, 21, or 28
Tuesdays, July 8 or 29
or Wednesday, July 23

Ages 13 - 18

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, July 9, 16 or 30
or Tuesday, July 22



Outdoor Skills Camp Challenge!

Put your teamwork and outdoor skills to the ultimate challenge! Compete against other teams for prizes! You must attend one of the skills camp days to participate in a challenge event.

Ages 8 - 18
Sign up for morning
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. OR
afternoon 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Thursdays, July 10, 17, 24, or 31

REGISTRATION

All Outdoor Skills programs requires registration. Please call at (816) 228 - 3766 on or after **July 1** to register for a program. If you need to cancel, please call and cancel so the people on the waiting list may attend. Thank you!

Be sure to register **EARLY**
as slots fill fast!

Outdoor Skills Camp Just for Families

(Children must be at least 7 to participate)
This camp will be broken down into skills segments offered on three consecutive **Sundays**.

Archery:
July 6 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

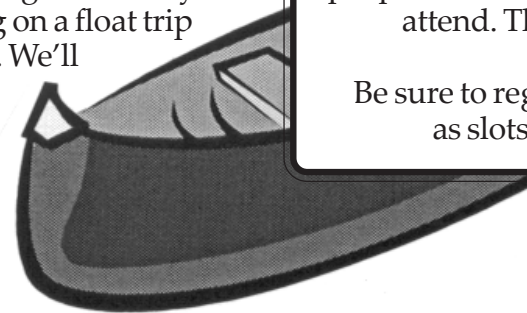
Canoeing:
July 13 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Air Rifles:
July 20 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Outdoor Skills Camp Challenge Just for Families

Compete against other families for fun and prizes! You must attend each of the Sunday family skills to participate in the challenge.

Thursday, July 24
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.





From the Treetops

If you’ve been to the nature center lately you may have noticed the new gardens and landscaping. After the construction of the Wildlife Viewing Room on the north side of the building, the backyard needed a whole new make-over. Naturalist Stephanie Acers, Judy Allmon from Grow Native, Girl Scout Brownie Troop #1771, Juniors Troop #151, Cadettes Trop #1690 and Seniors Troop #295, the maintenance crew at Burr Oak Woods, plus lots of other staff and volunteers have been working very hard to bring the backyard back to life.

Stephanie has headed up the project, Judy designed the landscape plan, the maintenance crew put in a new rail fence and tilled the soil, the Girl Scouts planted the plants, and the rest have pitched in to insure it all happened! Stephanie’s husband, Randy even made some beautiful poles that hold an assortment of bird feeders. I know, you’re thinking, “How can wooden poles be beautiful?” Wait till you see these. They are works of art! And, the wildlife are flocking to the feeders. The native plants are still in their early phases, but in a few years they will be outstanding.

In the front of the nature center, Alan Branhagan from Powell Gardens designed a beautiful garden for us. The Master Gardener’s of Greater Kansas City Missouri planted the garden for us and several plants are already blooming! This garden will have a small path for visitors to walk through and the native plants will be labeled for plant identification, to learn what plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and just for appreciation. The Master Gardener’s have agreed to maintain the garden throughout the year and it will prove to be an outstanding addition to the nature center.

The landscaping, the trails, the picnic facilities, the nature center, the viewing room, and of course, the programs, what wonderful reasons to take the day off and visit your favorite place and watch us grow!

Lynn Youngblood — LYNN YOUNGBLOOD
Nature Center Manager

Critter Corner



Living Jewels by Stephanie Acers



Butterflies, or “living jewels”, are some of the most popular creatures in nature. None, however, are as popular as the monarch butterfly. It is probably best known for its fall migration 2,000 miles southward to Mexico in numbers that can reach into the millions. This black and orange beauty can be found all over North America but here in Missouri it can only be found in the summer. To be successful in attracting monarch’s to your yard, be sure to plant lots of milkweed. This plant, which is food for the larva or caterpillar, is what makes it distasteful to predators such as birds. The adult butterfly will visit a wide variety of flowers but especially likes our native wildflower new england aster. To find out more about attracting monarchs and other butterflies to your yard stop by the nature center and pick up a copy of “Butterfly Gardening and Conservation”.

- NATURAL HAPPENINGS -

- ▲ Watch for wonderful prairie wildflowers such as black-eyed susan and blazing star as they begin to bloom!
- ▲ Head out in the evening and listen for the calls of katydids, crickets, grasshoppers and even whip-poor-wills.
- ▲ Young hummingbirds begin to come to hummingbird feeders.

Jim’s Fishing Tips



A popular fish to track down during summer is the largemouth bass. When you are fishing a top water lure, get a strike but lose him quick, have a follow-up rod with a soft plastic lure ready to follow with. The fish sometimes thinks that he has killed what he was after and you can catch him on the follow-up bait.

If bass are in shallow water and you get a gentle rain, it could bring on a good spinner bait bite, give it a try. Finally, remember when fishing its always good to try the edges, whether it is along weeds, stumps, underwater brush piles, drop-offs or even the edge of sunlight and shade.

(Editor’s Note: Volunteer Naturalist Jim Hawes will share fishing tips each month in “The Nutshell.” Enjoy!)

Jim Hawes

BURR OAK WOODS Conservation Nature Center

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~ Naturalist Notebook ~

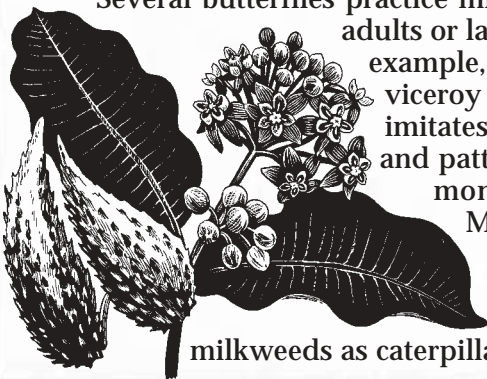
On Gossamer Wings

R. Craig Hensley, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

You probably didn’t know it, but at one time or another you were probably attacked. The attack wouldn’t have caused any damage, not even a scratch, but I am confident that it’s happened. You were walking down a trail in the woods, sunlight reaching the forest floor here and there when suddenly from one of those sunlit spots it darted toward you, attempting to drive you off with all the might it could muster. It could have been a red admiral or even a painted lady, but regardless, know that you were attacked.

Who are these attackers? Butterflies. That’s right, butterflies. This is just one of the interesting behaviors butterflies reveal to those who care to watch. For example, most of us know that butterflies sip nectar from flowers. How many of you know that several species prefer the juices from animal droppings, dead animals or sweat? A lovely thought, isn’t it?

Several butterflies practice mimicry as adults or larvae. For example, the adult viceroy butterfly imitates the color and pattern of a monarch. Monarchs, which feed on milkweeds as caterpillars retain



the toxins found in the milkweed sap, thus making them inedible to most potential predators. Along comes the viceroy, who over time developed a color pattern similar enough to the monarch that would be predators who have experienced the foul-tasting monarch avoid the otherwise tasty look-alike.

Another form of mimicry takes place with a few caterpillars. The larva of the giant swallowtail, for one, resembles a bird dropping, which affords it a measure of protection. After all, who is going to chow down on bird droppings? And that is not all when it comes to caterpillars. The larvae of a small butterfly known as the harvester, unlike most caterpillars, do not feed on plants. Instead, they devour aphids - that’s right, a predatory caterpillar!

Beyond behavior, the variety of butterflies found in Missouri is stunning. From tiny blue butterflies known as the spring azure to the large, lemon-colored cloudless sulphur and the striking yellow and black tiger swallowtail, butterflies provide a diversity of color and form. Furthermore, the great thing is that you can invite them to your yard simply by planting flowers in your garden. Natives such as blazing star and purple coneflower, including ornamentals, cosmos and zinnias, all are attractive to butterflies.

Take time this summer when you are out hiking to slow down and enjoy the amazing diversity of these gossamer-winged wonders. You won’t be disappointed.



Burr Oak Woods’ Staff Profile

David Bilyeu



What do you like about working here?
I enjoy being part of an effort to maintain a unique and special area such as Burr Oak Woods. Its diversity of habitats brings therapeutic qualities to the visitors while coexisting thus benefiting both man and beast.

Other Points of Interest:
Appreciate art in all forms from Frank Lloyd Wright architecture to Bruce Lee’s martial arts, philosophy, and restoring vehicles. ‘Art is the soul made apparent’.

Family:
Mother and Father, Ethel and George, three sisters and four nieces.

How long have you been with the Missouri Department of Conservation?
3 1/2 years

Hobbies:
Sports fanatic, reading, outdoor recreation, movie critic, and culinary ‘eating’ arts.